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RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 0942
RUEHQP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 0934
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2315
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
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RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0490
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0299

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PESHAWAR 000413

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 8/2/2016

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SUBJECT: 11TH CORPS COMMANDER DISCUSSES JIRGA, DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND NWFP POLITICS

REF: A) PESHAWAR 360; B) ISLAMABAD 13677; C) ISLAMABAD 14209

CLASSIFIED BY: Gautam Rana, Political Officer, U.S. Consulate

Peshawar, State.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (C) Summary: 11th Corps Commander Lt. General Hamid Khan expressed optimism that the jirga organized by the Northwest Frontier Province. Khan also criticized the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) religious coalition that currently governs the NWFP, bluntly stating they would not be

Jirga or the Hammer

2. (C) Khan expressed optimism that the jirga organized by Governor Orakzai will be successful. The militants had sued for talks because Khan

Foreign militants

3. (C) Khan conceded the militants, especially foreign fighters, were dispersing to other agencies from North Waziristan during the current "simple people." He did not perceive Afghans to be a threat and is not planning any action against them. He expressed bitterness at President

Development Issues

4. (C) According to Khan, long-term development is extremely important and entails building schools, roads, health clinics, and generally improving

5. (C) He reiterated comments he made to us earlier that the Governor's office lacks capacity to implement development schemes, and will pressure

NWFP Politics

6. (C) Khan criticized the MMA government in the NWFP. He explained, "We need to ensure the mullahs don't get a second term. The common perception

7. (C) Clearly speaking in support of Pres. Musharraf and the PML-Q, he noted "we need to create new alliances" -- Fazlur Rehman would go to

8. (C) "ANP is the logical partner, but their party chief, Senator Asfandiyar Khan, has too many ties to India and Afghanistan," stated Khan.

9. (C) COMMENT: General Khan took pains to emphasize that he sees himself as "the hammer" that brought local Islamic militants to the negotiating

10. This cable has been approved by Embassy Islamabad.
SPANGLER